

Message Text

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21

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TAGS: PINT JA

SUBJ: MINOBE CRISIS CONTINUES

REF: TOKYO 2218

SUMMARY: SUPPORTERS OF TOKYO GOVERNOR MINOBE CONTINUE TO MEET WITH FAILURE IN THEIR FRANTIC EFFORTS TO RESOLVE THE JSP-JCP CONTROVERSY ON THE DOWA PROBLEM AND TO INDUCE MINOBE TO RUN AGAIN. THE DEBACLE IN TOKYO HAS ALREADY MADE ITSELF FELT ELSEWHERE IN BREAKING APART THE JSP-JCP FRONT -- IN SAPPORO, IWATE, AND CHIBA. IN OTHER AREAS, SUCH AS KANAGAWA, IT APPEAR TO BE HOLDING FIRM. END SUMMARY.

1. DESPITE THEIR FRANTIC EFFORTS, SUPPORTERS OF TOKYO GOVERNOR MINOBE FAILED TO MAKE ANY HEADWAY OVER THE PAST WEEKEND IN ENDING THE JSP-JCP DISPUTE WHICH CAUSED MINOBE TO WITHDRAW HIS CANDIDACY. MINOBE, AT AN EMOTIONAL PRESS CONFERENCE FEBRUARY 22, AGAIN SAID HE WOULD NOT SEEK REELECTION BECAUSE HE SAY NO HOPE FOR A SETTLEMENT. HIS SUPPORT ORGANIZATION, THE ASSOCIATION FOR A CLEAN, PROGRESSIVE TOKYO GOVERNMENT, IGNORED MINOBE'S STATEMENT AND MET ON FEBRUARY 24 TO RESOLVE DIFFERENCES. IT FAILED,
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HOWEVER, TO REACH ANY AGREEMENT OTHER THAN TO KEEP THE

ORGANIZATION ALIVE, TO MAKE "EVERY EFFORT" TO FIND A SOLUTION TO INDUCE MINOBE TO CHANGE HIS MIND, AND TO MEET AGAIN ON MARCH 1.

2. THE FEBRUARY 24 MEETING WAS PRECEDED BY THESE DEVELOPMENTS WITHIN THE REFORMIST CAMP:

--THE SPLIT WITHIN THE JSP HAS DEEPENED OVER THE PAST FEW DAYS. JSP CHAIRMAN NARITA PUT HIS PRESTIGE ON THE LINE BY PROPOSING TO THE JSP CENTRAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE THAT IT SUPPORT MINOBE EVEN IF HE SHOULD ACCEPT THE NAKANO-GROUP'S PROPOSAL THAT THE DOWA LOAN PROGRAM BE ADMINISTERED IMPARTIALLY (AS DEMANDED BY THE JCP). NARITA WAS REPORTEDLY SUPPORTED BY THE LEFT-WING FAVORING A COMMON FRONT WITH THE JCP, AND WAS BITTERLY OPPOSED BY THE MODERATE WING FAVORING CLOSE TIES WITH THE DSP AND KOMEITO. THE LATTER ASSERTED THAT THE NARITA-NAKANO GROUP PROPOSALS RAN COUNTER TO JSP POLICY ON DOWA ADMINISTRATION DECIDED AT THE PARTY CONVENTION. THE BADLY SPLIT CENTRAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE THEN DECIDED TO SHIFT RESPONSIBILITY FOR FINDING A SOLUTION TO THE JSP TOKYO CHAPTER.

--SOHYO DECIDED TO BACK NARITA. ITS LEADERS ICHIKAWA AND OKI THEN PAID PERSONAL CALLS ON JSP AND JCP LEADERS TO REQUEST THAT THEY MAKE MUTUAL CONCESSIONS, BUT WITHOUT ANY RESULT.

--THE LIBERATION LEAGUE, ON THE OTHER HAND, BLASTED NARITA, SOHYO, AND THE NAKANO-GROUP FOR CAVING IN TO THE JCP, AND THREATENED TO PULL OUT OF THE JSP.

--TO COMPLICATE MATTERS, THE TOKYO GOVERNMENT BUREAUCRACY EXPRESSED ITS OPPOSITION TO IMPARTIAL ADMINISTRATION. IT TOOK THE VIEW THAT LIBERATION LEAGUE PARTICIPATION IN THE LOAN PROGRAM WAS IMPERATIVE IN ORDER TO OVERCOME THE CONSTITUTIONAL BAN AGAINST USE OF TAX FUNDS TO BENEFIT A PARTICULAR GROUP, THE BURAKUMIN COMMUNITY. WITHOUT THE ADMITTEDLY EXTRALEGAL PARTICIPATION OF THE LEAGUE, IN LECTURES AT BRIEFING SESSIONS FOR LOAN APPLICANTS AND FOR IDENTIFYING BURAKUMIN APPLICANTS, THE BUREAUCRATS CONTENDED THAT THE LOAN PROGRAM WOULD BECOME NOTHING MORE THAN A GENERAL PROGRAM OPEN TO ALL.

--MEANWHILE, THE JCP PRAISED THE EFFORTS OF NARITA AND THE NAKANO-GROUP, STATING THAT THEIR PROPOSALS COULD FORM THE BASIS FOR CONCRETE STEPS TO SOLVE THE DISPUTE.

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3. MINOBE'S SUPPORTERS PERSIST IN THEIR EFFORT TO INDUCE MINOBE TO RUN, DESPITE HIS STATED INTENTIONS AND ALMOST INSUPERABLE OBSTACLES, BECAUSE THEY HAVE NO REPLACEMENT WHO CAN BEAT THE LDP SUPPORTED CANDIDATE, SHINTARO ISHIHARA, AND BECAUSE THE TOKYO GUBERNATORIAL, THE SHOWCASE OF REFORMIST GOVERNMENT, IS TOO GREAT A PRIZE TO ABANDON WITHOUT A COLLEGE TRY. THERE ARE SOME, HOWEVER, SUCH AS KOMEITO DIETMEN, WHO BELIEVE THAT MINOBE MAY HAVE ALREADY DAMAGED HIS IMAGE BEYOND RETRIVAL, AND

EVEN IF HE WERE TO CHANGE HIS MIND, HIS CHANCES OF BEATING
ISHIHARA ARE LESS THAN EVEN.

4. ANOTHER REASON FOR PERSISTANCE IS THE REFORMIST FEAR THAT
THE JSP-JCP SPLIT IN TOKYO HAS BEGUN TO SPREAD EVEN TO AREAS
WHERE THERE IS NO DOWA CONTROVERSY. ON FEBRUARY 17, DAY AFTER
MINOBE'S WITHDRAWAL ANNOUNCEMENT, THE JSP-JCP CANDIDATE FOR
MAYOR OF SAPPORO WITHDREW FROM THE RACE, AND THE JSP-JCP
COMMON FRONT BACKING A JSP DIETMAN FOR GOVERNOR OF IWATE
PREFECTURE BROKE APART. A SIMILAR COMMON FRONT FOR THE GUBER-
NATIONAL ELECTION IN CHIBA PREFECTURE ALSO CAME APART ON
FEBRUARY 23 AS AN INDIRECT CONSEQUENCE OF THE DEBACLE IN TOKYO.

5. IN OTHER PREFECTURES WHERE THE TWO PARTIES ARE BACKING
COMMON GUBERNATORIAL CANDIDATES -- KANAGAWA, AKITA, SAGA, AND
FUKUOKA -- THE COMMON FRONTS APPEAR TO BE HOLDING FIRM, BUT
WITH NO ASSURANCE THAT THEY WILL REMAIN SO UNTIL APRIL 13
ELECTION DAY.
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